

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from among a plurality of programs based on a plurality of criteria and a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance; and

changing a compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs and the importance of a category criteria.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on whether the first program previously had the compression level changed.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on an age of the first program and the importance of an age criteria.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the importance of a difference criteria.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on an expected savings from compressing the program and based on the importance of an expected savings criteria,~~the criteria and an importance of the criteria.~~

7. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on a plurality of criteria and a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria,
wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance if a threshold is exceeded, wherein one of the plurality of criteria comprises~~based on~~ a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs ~~if a threshold is exceeded~~; and

means for changing a compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program based on whether the first program previously had the compression level changed.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program based on an age of the first program and the importance of an age criteria.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the importance of a difference criteria.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting further comprises:

means for selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space in the storage among the plurality of programs.

12. (Currently amended) A ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable storage medium encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on a plurality of criteria, and based on a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance, wherein one of the plurality of criteria comprises~~based on a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong~~category to which the first program belongs~~and based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed; and~~

changing the compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on an age of the first program and the importance of an age criteria.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the importance of a difference criteria.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~signal-bearing~~computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the ranking comprises an initial compression level of the first program.

17. (Currently amended) A digital video recorder comprising:

a processor; and

a memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on a plurality of criteria, and based on a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality of criteria at the respective importance, wherein the plurality of criteria comprise a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong and an age of the plurality of programs~~based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs, based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, and based on an age of the first program, and~~

changing the compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

18. (Currently amended) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program and the importance of a difference criteria.

19. (Previously presented) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

20. (Currently amended) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the ranking comprises initial compression levels of the plurality of programs.~~an initial compression level of the first program.~~

21. (Previously presented) The digital video recorder of claim 17, wherein the instructions further comprise:

marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory encoded with instructions, wherein the instructions when executed on the processor comprise:

if a threshold is exceeded, selecting a first program from a plurality of programs based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on a plurality of criteria, and based on a respective importance of each of the plurality of criteria, wherein the selecting further comprises calculating a score for each of the plurality of programs for each of the plurality

of criteria at the respective importance, wherein the plurality of criteria comprise a ranking of a plurality of categories to which the plurality of programs belong, an age of the plurality of programs, and a difference between current compression levels of the plurality of programs and minimum compression levels of the plurality of programs, and~~based on a ranking of a category to which the first program belongs, based on whether the first program previously had a compression level changed, based on an age of the first program, and based on a difference between a current compression level of the first program and a minimum compression level of the first program, and~~

changing the compression level of the first program, wherein the changing further reduces an amount of storage consumed by the first program and causes an unrecoverable loss of data.

23. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the selecting further comprises:

selecting the first program from the plurality of programs wherein the changing the compression level of the first program saves a largest amount of space among the plurality of programs.

24. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the ranking comprises initial compression levels of the plurality of programs~~, an initial compression level of the first program.~~

25. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 22, wherein the instructions further comprise:

marking the first program as having the compression level previously changed.